

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2011

7:00 P.M.

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL - 45 LYONS TERRACE
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Finch asked Council Member Curwen to lead those present in a prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE

Mayor Finch asked Council Member Baker to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Alliance.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Hudson called the roll. The following members were present

130 th District	Susan T. Brannelly	Martin McCarthy
131 st District	Denese Taylor-Moye	
132 nd District:	M. Evette Brantley	Robert S. Walsh
133 rd District:	Thomas McCarthy	
134 th District:	Michelle A. Lyons	AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135 th District:	Richard Bonney	
136 th District:	Angel dePara, Jr.	
137 th District:	Lydia N. Martinez	
138 th District:	Robert Curwen	
139 th District:	Andre F. Baker, Jr.	James Holloway

There were a total of 14 Council Members present and six absent (A. Ayala, M. Ayala, Austin, Blunt, Silva and Paoletto).

Council President McCarthy then stated that Council Member Blunt, Council Member Silva and Council Member Manuel Ayala were unable to be present due to medical issues. Council Member Anderson Ayala was with his father who is hospitalized and Council Member Paoletto was not able to attend due to a family situation.

**CITY COUNCIL CITATION - BUILD ON IN RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITY.**

Council President McCarthy announced that the Build On was a wonderful organization in which the students volunteer in Bridgeport to earn their way on a trip. This trip will be to Malawi. Council President McCarthy said that the City appreciates all that Build On does and the organization builds character.

Mayor Finch asked what the various projects were that the crews worked on. These included work at Holy Rosary Church, another project to provide meals for veterans, one that painted garbage cans for the City; and an additional project at the Jewish Center.

Council Member Martinez read the citation from the Council to the group. A representative of the group then presented with a certificate.

**CITY COUNCIL CITATION: PUBLIC ALLIES IN RECOGNITION OF CARRYING
OUT THE BRIDGEPORT BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT**

Council President McCarthy then called the Public Allies group forward. Mayor Finch said that wherever there was a Beautify Bridgeport projects, Public Allies were present. Council Member Martinez and Ms. Saltero were also called forward. The Mayor said that that the group had helped with gardening projects all over the City.

Council President McCarthy, Council Member Martinez and Ms. Saltero thanked the group for their work for Bridgeport. One of the members then listed a number of the projects that the group had completed. He then read the City Citation for the group and thanked them again for their work.

Council Member Martinez requested a moment of silence for Joseph Braca who passed away last week. He was the president and founding member of the East Main Street Revitalization Association, founding member of the Lower East Side Development Corporation, board member of the McGivney Community Center, Unity Council, East Side Strike Force, East Side NRZ, West Side Community Council and Bridgeport Neighborhood Housing Services. All those present stood and observed a moment of silence for Mr. Braca.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Approval of the City Council Minutes of May 2, 2011

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLWAY MOVED THE MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2011**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER DEPARA SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2011 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

95-10 Resolution from Special Committee on Redistricting re Redistricting Plan/Map, referred to Ordinance Committee.

Council President McCarthy then reviewed the Addendum to the agenda. Council member Baker and Holloway will review this in Ordinance Meeting and there will be at least one more public hearing. This item is just being referred to Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

88-10 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS RE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS UNION REGARDING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

89-10 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

91-10 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE APPOINTMENT OF JACK O. BANTA (D) TO THE HARBOR COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

92-10 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE PROPOSED LEASE AGREEMENT WITH GREEN VILLAGE INITIATIVE, INC. (GVI) FOR THE CONTIGUOUS CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1469 RESERVOIR AVENUE AND 20 YAREMICH DRIVE, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

93-10 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RE GRANT SUBMISSION: 2010 LONG ISLAND SOUND FUTURE FUND GRANT, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC

**AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE.**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER TAYLOR-MOYE SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ITEMS FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION:

**94-10 Communication from City Attorney re Possible Settlement of Pending
Litigation – Garcia, et.al. v. Finch, et.al. FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED TO SEND AGENDA ITEM 94-10
- COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT OF
PENDING LITIGATION – GARCIA, ET.AL. V. FINCH, ET.AL. TO THE
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RESOLUTIONS TO BE REFERRED TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.:

**90-10 Resolution presented by Council member Baker re Requesting Verification of
Elimination of Take-Home Vehicles in FY2012 City Budget, referred to Miscellaneous
Matters Committee.**

- ** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 90-10
RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BAKER RE REQUESTING
VERIFICATION OF ELIMINATION OF TAKE-HOME VEHICLES IN FY2012 CITY
BUDGET, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**
- ** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS
AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

***66-10(PHO) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PUBLIC HEARING
ORDERED FOR JUNE 20, 2011 RE: DISPOSITION OF 60 CIRCULAR
AVENUE: OFFER TO PURCHASE FROM BRENNAN’S SHEBEEN
IRISH BAR AND GRILL.**

***73-10 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2011 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT.**

***76-10 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OPM - 2011 MUNICIPAL PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (POCD) GRANT PROGRAM.**

***77-10 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEP - 2011 FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE ALONG THE PEQUONNOCK RIVER AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF WASHINGTON PARK.**

***78-10 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FERRY BOAT DISCRETIONARY GRANT.**

***85-10 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: 2011 DPH MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT.**

***69-10 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF PETER J. HOLECZ (R) TO THE HARBOR COMMISSION.**

***70-10 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF SUSAN TABACHNICK (D) TO THE STRATFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION.**

***71-10 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF SUSAN RICHTER (R) TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION #1.**

***72-10 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF GAIL STEPHEN (D) TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION #1 AS AN ALTERNATE.**

***86-10 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM FOR ATTORNEY FEES IN THE MATTER OF THE BRIDGEPORT GUARDIANS, INC. ET.AL VS. ARTHUR DELMONTE.**

***50-10 EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: RESOLUTION FOR THE CREATION OF A REPLACEMENT ROOFING PROJECT AT BASSICK HIGH SCHOOL.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

75-10 Contracts Committee Report re Parks Master Planning Services: MNB124105 Professional Services Agreement with Sasaki Associates, Inc.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED AGENDA ITEM 75-10 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE PARKS MASTER PLANNING SERVICES: MNB124105 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SASAKI ASSOCIATES, INC.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTIN MCCARTHY SECONDED.**

Council Member Walsh said that he had raised an issue about the lack of effort on the part of the City to encourage Minority businesses to bid on additional projects beyond construction. He said that he wanted to see an addition to the contracts where it states how many MBEs had been included in the bid process. He said that he would also like to see how many times the City had reissued a RPF because not enough MBEs had applied. He said that also more needs to be done for Bridgeport based businesses. Council Member Walsh said that the City does not does enough for them. Just having the MBEs participate in school construction projects is not enough.

Council Member Holloway said that he felt that this was the wrong place to do this. He said that there had been a request for this information in writing and this was not done. Council Member Holloway said that he did not want to hear Mr. Grabarz list a number of projects. He said that he wanted to see it in writing with the information. He said that he was not here to listen to City staff to list project. Council President McCarthy said that he agreed with Council Member Holloway about having the information presented in written form for discussion.

Council Member Walsh said he wanted to know if someone was able to answer the questions about the number of contracts had been re-issued for more MBE participation. Mayor Finch pointed out that this administration had done more for MBEs than any other. He said that he had inquired for MBE landscape architect up and down the East Coast, and there was only one firm in New York City. They did not apply. He said that if Council Member Walsh knew of another

one. Council Member Walsh said that he found it difficult to believe that there were no other minority owned landscape architecture firms. Mr. Grabarz then listed a number of companies that had applied.

Ms. Caviness came forward and said that there had been one bid that had been re-issued three times looking for MBEs. She said that landscape architecture was a difficult field and that she had not been able to find more than one firm, which the Mayor had mentioned earlier.

Council Member Holloway said that four months ago the bid went out. He then spoke about how the contractors deal with MBEs. Council President McCarthy suggested that before the next Council meeting there should be a meeting about the MBEs and the efforts that the City has made in this area. He said that the issue before everyone tonight is important because it is essential to have a Master Plan for the Parks.

Council Member Walsh said that in regard to the particular contract, he found \$278,000 for the Plan was amazing. He said that a group has put together a Master Plan for the Pequonnock River and once the Plan was completed the City ignored it completely. Council Member Walsh said that outside groups have no idea of what is realistic for Bridgeport. He said that the City had no idea of what the Master Plan would be and because of this, it was a waste of taxpayer's money if the plan had problems such as a high price tag.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED THE QUESTION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 75-10 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE PARKS MASTER PLANNING SERVICES: MNB124105 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SASAKI ASSOCIATES, INC. PASSED WITH 12 IN FAVOR (BRANNELLY, M.MCCARTHY, TAYLOR-MOYE, BRANTLEY, T. MCCARTHY, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, BONNEY, DEPARA, MARTINEZ, CURWEN, AND HOLLOWAY) AND TWO AGAINST (WALSH & BAKER).**

It was pointed out that Agenda Item 95-10 had not yet been voted on.

95-10 Resolution from Special Committee on Redistricting re Redistricting Plan/Map, referred to Ordinance Committee.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED AGENDA ITEM 95-10 RESOLUTION FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING RE REDISTRICTING PLAN/MAP, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Taylor-Moye thanked everyone on the Council for their participation in a recent fund raiser.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia stated that the Miscellaneous Matters Committee had an item to add to the agenda regarding a proposed suit settlement.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER CURWEN MOVED TO ADD ITEM 83-10 RECONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED SUIT SETTLEMENT WITH COLIN YOUNG TO THE AGENDA.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

83-10 Reconsideration of Proposed Suit Settlement with Colin Young.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED AGENDA ITEM 83-10 RECONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED SUIT SETTLEMENT WITH COLIN YOUNG.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED.**

Council Member Curwen expressed concerns about being asked to approve a suit settlement without knowing the details or the amount involved. Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia replied that all the Council Members had been sent notification of the Miscellaneous Matters meeting prior to the meeting and it was on the agenda. She added that the meeting to discuss the details and approve the item had taken place just before the Council Meeting. The amount involved in the settlement is \$50,000.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 83-10 RECONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED SUIT SETTLEMENT WITH COLIN YOUNG PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

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City Council
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